

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3667

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

CONFIDENTIAL NEW DELHI 1399

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, BG, UR

SUBJECT: INDO-BANGLADESH BORDER QUESTIONS

1. THE SOVIET POLITICAL COUNSELOR APPROACHED DCM AT RECEPTION JANUARY 28 TO ASK WHETHER WE HAD HEARD TIGER SIDDIQUI WAS "LEADING A GROUP WHICH INCLUDED INDIANS AND WAS BEING SUPPORTED BY INDIAN ARTILLERY (DIRECTED) ACCROSS THE BORDER INTO BANGLADESH LAST WEEK." THE SOVIET SPOKE IN THE PRESENVQJOF THE NEW BENGALI DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER WHO ALLOWED ONLY THAT HE HEARD TWO WEEKS AGO SIDDIQUI WAS CONDUCTING RAIDS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER AND OTHERWISE MAKING A NUISANCE OF HIMSELF. THE BENGALEE HAD NO COMMENT ON THE SPECIFIC ALLEGATION BY THE SOVIET.

2. THE MEA JOINT SECRETARY FOR BANGLADESH, WHEN ASKED ABOUT SITUATION ON INDO-BANGLADESH BORDER JANUARY 28, MADE NO REFERENCE TO ANY UNUSUAL BORDAR INCIDENTS OR PROBLEMS. ON PAST OCCASIONS HE HAS BEEN QUICK TO BRING TO OUR ATTENTION ANY BORDER OFFENSES CHARGED TO BANGLADESH.

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3. HE DKF NOTENWN PASSING THAT THE MARITIME BOUNDARY
QUESTION HAD NOT THUS FAR BEEN RAISED BETWEEN THE NEW
BDG AND GOI, THAT THE INDIANS WOULD NOT RAISE IT IF
BDG DID NOT TAKE THE INITIATIVE, AND THAT THE GOI INTENDED
TO MAKE "NO FURTHER CONCESSIONS" ON THIS SUBJECT.

4. COMMENT -- THE SOVIET MAY ONLY HAVE BEEN ON AN
INFORMATION-SEEKING MISSION BUT WE FIND IT CURIOUS HE
SHOULD BE LENDING SUPPORT TO ALLEGATIONS ADVERSE TO THE
INDIANS. IT IS TRUE THIS PARTICULAR SOVIET HAS IN THE
P

5 3VINCED LITTLE CONFIDENCE IN INDIAN PROFESSIONS
OF GOOD BEHAVIOR VIS A VIS BANGLADESH. A JOKE HE WAS
PRIVATELY PROMOTING A MONTH AGO ALLEGED THAT THE
GRENADE THROWN INTO THE INDIAN MISSION COMPOUND IN
DACCA LATE LAST FALL WAS THE SAME ONE WHICH DIDN'T
EXPLODE IN AN ABORTIVE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT HERE ON
CHIEF JUSTICE RAY LAST SUMMER. THE INDIANS STILL
COULDNT GET IT TO WORK, HE CLAIMED WITH A SMILE.

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